

Spring 2016



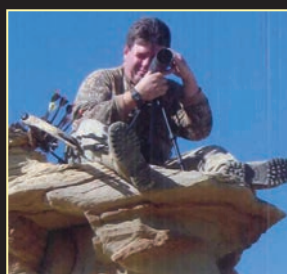
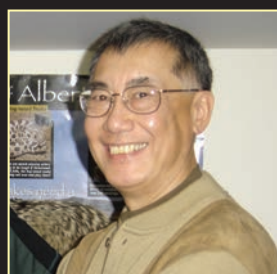
Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association



Conservation Education

The Voice of Conservation Education in Alberta

Magazine



2016 W.I.S.E. AWARDS

Honouring Outstanding Albertans

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Honouring Outstanding Albertans

14th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards

February 6, 2016

By Bob Gruszecki



Bob Gruszecki
President - A.H.E.I.A.

The 14th Annual Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Foundation Awards and Banquet was another success with approximately 400 people in attendance. We honoured two extraordinary Albertans for their contributions to conservation in its many forms.

Also in attendance was Mr. Eric Rosendahl, MLA for West Yellowhead and life member of A.H.E.I.A., who offered sage words of encouragement and support for our cause. Premier Notley wrote that she appreciates our "outstanding role in helping ensure that Alberta's proud hunting and fishing tradition continues to play an important part in our culture and communities." Minister of Alberta Environment and Parks, Shannon Phillips, said in a letter, "When it comes to leadership, the W.I.S.E. Foundation and the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association provide an outstanding example of how to inspire future generations of Albertans to protect their natural legacy of biodiversity." The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association looks forward to working with the Alberta Government to achieve our mutual goals for 2016.

2014's record of over 90,000 students was broken in 2015 by another 5,000 graduates of our many programs. As A.H.E.I.A. continues to grow and push boundaries, 2016 is projected to have even more success thanks to the continued dedication of our volunteers.

Two outstanding Albertans were recognized this year. The categories were: Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award and The Alva Bair Conservation Award. Following is an excerpt of the presentation made to these outstanding individuals.

Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award

The Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of conservation education. Award recipients in this category demonstrate a passion and commitment to deliver conservation education programs to Albertans of all ages.

This year we were pleased to recognize **Mr. Dan Chow** of Edmonton, Alberta.

Dan was first exposed to Hunter Education when, in 1973, he needed a hunting licence. Prior to this, a licence could be had over the counter; now he needed to be certified and so he took a course with Lionel Dunn, a Fish and Wildlife instructor in the Hunter Education division.

Dan's father wasn't a hunter, so he had no mentor in the field those early days. It's just as well that he never killed anything, as he says he wouldn't have known what to do with his harvest! With no one to bring him to class like the other kids, the determined boy went alone. Lionel, a very influential teacher who was good with all of the kids, made a point of seeking him out at breaks to say hello and strike up conversations; this encouraged Dan. Their relationship was a lasting one and Lionel sent Dan one of his famous line drawings each

Christmas for many years. Many were lost when Dan's house was damaged, but he managed to save as many as possible.

In 1982, as a member of a Fish and Game club, Dan realised that there were lots of kids in the same predicament he had been in. 10 years after his own certification, he became a Hunter Education instructor and began a journey of educating youngsters in the joys of the outdoors.

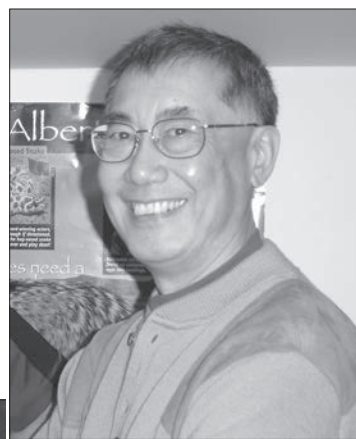
Dan's involvement was influenced most by the fact that those in conservation education don't just talk about things, "we just do it". No matter what the program — the Outdoor Women's Program, Youth Camps, etc. — kids are given actual experience, which is a lot of fun and a lot of learning. He also gained a lot of knowledge from students and volunteers over the years, which

translated into friendships over the decades.

These relationships have proven that Dan has made a difference. Many of his former students have taken leadership roles in their rural communities. Their local Fish and Game clubs have sent them to Narrow Lake to learn from instructors there, and the 15-16 year

Continued ➤

"To future instructors, Dan recommends they learn from their students and listen to what students are asking. Think through the answers ... "



old students come back to write articles for the clubs' newsletters, which encourages other kids to join and be involved.

Being an instructor created many memories and allowed him to share special experiences with his family. "The time a parent spends with a child is wonderful, enriched." Dan points out that we ask our children to get away from TV and video games, but provide them with no alternatives. In the backcountry, with no cell phone coverage, he says "they have to talk to you."

To future instructors, Dan recommends they learn from their students and listen to what students are asking. Think through the answers — we all have skills, but we are not all necessarily experts.

To the government, Dan would say that we need to understand that this natural place we have is the envy of the rest of the world, and is too often taken for granted. Our planet is resilient and can heal, but it takes time and knowledge to know what to do, and what not to do. Because of this, mass education doesn't do a lot of good. We need to engage students, one at a time, over a generation, and give them ethics rather than just information. Long term vision is required to ensure a positive impact on our children's children's lives.

Dan feels that the continued strong interest in conservation education is encouraging with regards to understanding why we're here. If we'd asked him 20 years ago about what he'd thought over the controversies of ethical treatment of animals and firearms legislation, he would have said that he thought the future was grim. Since then, however, he has noticed a resurgence of interest in A.H.E.I.A. programs, from the number of kids



taking the programs to the way we think of food and eat food. 20 years ago only the most "hard-core" would think of eating a whole animal. Now restaurants in North American cities serve off cuts, now considered very popular and expensive.

Claiming to have no altruistic bone in his body, Dan says he is only doing it for his personal needs — to make sure future generations prosper. It is his wish to give the next generation what he has — so they can look after him in his old age.

Regarding his future students, Dan says we need to tell new kids what we had before and show them what we have now, versus show them what they could have. Students should be taught that we can all improve our lot; it only takes work.

Declining to embarrass his children with reminiscences of their childhood, Dan tells of a particular occasion that touched him and illustrated the importance of his work. He was a volunteer instructor at the Outdoor Women's Program several years ago. Attending was a girl, about 13 years old, a tiny little thing, there with her mother or aunt. This girl wasn't interested in participating too much, she was just happy spending time there. At the range, he tried to get her involved, but she lacked confidence in her abilities. He reassured her and she gave it a try. At the end of the week, her group decided to enter the Olympics and she wanted to be a part of it, but felt she had nothing to contribute. They discussed

it and Dan convinced her to take a shooting event, though she feared her skills weren't good enough. He took her to the centrefire range and spent time teaching her how to shoot a rifle properly. The girl was so small that she had to adjust her posture due to her size and, under his tutelage, did improve considerably. When the signal was given as the event began, she ran to her station, took up the firearm and, sitting awkwardly to fit the bench and gun, rang the gong on the first shot, giving her team a huge lead. As the girl walked off the platform, her grin reached from ear to ear. That is when Dan realised the strength of a child's determination, and the power that resulting confidence brings. Many times in the past, his students had gone on to help in classrooms, in their community and with their peers, but this time, he had a front row view of a life being changed because of his work. And it sank in then: we never stop learning.

The Alva Bair Conservation Award

Each year a person is selected to receive the Alva Bair Conservation Award. The presentation is intended to honour the memory and amazing contribution to the cause of Conservation made by Alva. The recipients are recognized for demonstrating similar levels of passion and commitment to wildlife that Alva did. By presenting this award, Alva's name, personality and love for wild things and wild places will be perpetuated.



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Front Cover Photos: Robert Gruszecki (left) and Eric Rosendahl (right) presenting the 2016 W.I.S.E. Awards to Dan Chow (top photos) and Brian Rudyk (bottom photos).



“ Provide as many practical experiences as you can.
Know that your efforts make a difference. ”

As a pioneer in the conservation movement, Alva was able to create and share a vision with all who were interested. His vision was for a future that included viable wildlife populations and a society that recognized the value of wildlife and the contribution that wild creatures make to the overall quality of our lives. Alva was a leader among a large group of conservation-minded people from every part of the North American continent.

These people were responsible for creating a conservation movement that has become the most successful effort of its kind in the history of the world. Wildlife populations were at all time lows during the early 1900s and, beginning in the 1930s, the modern conservation movement was relentless in its accumulated determination to ensure that wildlife, fish and the places these resources lived would have a secure place in our future.

It remains a wonderful cause. Wildlife needs the attention and help of all of us.

The award is designed to encourage all people to become involved and to lean on those who went before us to show us how to do it. Such a Conservation giant was Alva Bair.

The Alva Bair Memorial Conservation Award is presented to the volunteer who most exemplifies that which Alva Bair represented during his life: our connection between wildlife and wild places.

This year's recipient in this category has spent his entire life perpetuating this type of commitment, **Mr. Brian Rudyk.**

Brian has always had an interest in wildlife and outdoor pursuits: camping, hunting and fishing. He was involved in these activities from a very early age with his Dad and friends. Brian learned about our program when he was at the

University of Alberta completing his Bachelor of Education, and it seemed to be a natural fit with his minor in Outdoor Education.

In 1986, the University offered the opportunity to take the student Hunter Education course and instructor certification at the same time. Brian began as a Class “C” Instructor and in 1989 was awarded Class “AA” Instructor status. When he started teaching conservation education, the people working with Fish and Wildlife, overseeing the delivery of the Alberta Conservation Hunter Education Program — Tom Bateman, Dave Paplawski, Marty Robillard, Lionel Dunn, Dave George and Syd Kanten — all impacted him deeply, and they became lifelong friends.

Brian strongly believes that the school system is one of the most effective places to deliver Hunter Education courses, especially in rural areas, and that the true demand is at the middle school level.

Brian's father was the most influential person in his life, in conservation education and many other areas. Dad was instrumental in sparking Brian's interest in the outdoors by including the boy in his outings at a very early age, often to remote, difficult-to-access areas, and was an expert at passing on his vast knowledge to others. By his early teens, Brian was well on his way to mastering the knowledge and skills required to be a competent outdoorsman. There were many memorable experiences in the outdoors with his father and, although he never taught in a formal setting, those around him always benefited from his competence and wisdom.

Mors Kochanski was also a great influence on Brian's role in conservation education. They got to know each other through the University of Alberta, as Mors was involved in the delivery of Outdoor Education courses. They were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to spend ex-



Alva Bair (at right).

Continued ➤

tended periods of time together in the outdoors. Mors' wilderness skills were impressive and his knowledge of Alberta's plant life and their usage is unparalleled.

Over the years, Brian had many memorable experiences with his students. There was the girl who took the Conservation Hunter Education Course for her interest in the outdoors, but had no interest in hunting. Upon finishing the class, she thanked him for the course and said that, although she now understood hunting's role as a management tool, she would never partake in it. She then married an avid hunter and has since become one herself.

Some of his favourite stories came from International exchange students, for whom many of the experiences were completely new. One stood out ... we'll call him Ken, a student from Japan. Ken was excited to be attending an ice fishing trip Brian had planned for the class, as he had never participated in the activity before. It was a typical Alberta day, being crisp and cold. While showing Ken how to set up his rig and find bottom, a small pike bit. They landed and released it. Ken was pumped and he diligently tended his ice fishing hole ... the entire day! Ken was not used to the climate, so Brian bundled him up to try to keep him warm with some of the extra clothes that were always brought along. He wouldn't even leave his task to come to the fire they had built on the nearby shore, to warm up and cook a hot dog or smoky. They brought Ken out a hot dog and some hot chocolate, and he continued to fish even though fishing was extremely slow. He reluctantly wound in his bait when it was time to leave. Ken had fished all day and had not even had a bite let alone caught a fish. The next day, when Brian was reading through the reflections he always had students write whenever they had a practical activity, he nervously waited to read Ken's. Brian was sure that Ken was going to tell him how crazy Canadians were to sit out on a frozen lake in frigid temperatures over a hole in the ice to try to catch a fish. When he opened Ken's reflection, Brian couldn't believe his eyes. It started with, "Thank you, thank you, thank you Mr. Rudyk!" Ken went on to say that of all the experiences he had had since coming to Canada, this was by far, absolutely his best. It wasn't for marks, as his exchange was more about experiences than academics, but for some time Brian really worried about the quality of experience poor Ken was having in Canada! It was a lesson and a reminder about not taking things for granted. Not everyone has the opportunity to experience the great outdoors the way we have and that is why it is so important to share it.

There may not be a particular incident or experience that has made a profound difference, but the one highlight that has been common to all his experiences, is the people. From students to fellow instructors to volunteers to staff, over the years Brian has met some incredible people involved with this passion of ours. Whether it is their down-to-earth nature, their willingness to help others, their dedication to a cause, or their



“ His students have gone on to careers related to conservation education, from professional guides, to brothers who own a remote fishing lodge, and many others who simply enjoy outdoor pursuits on a regular basis. And Brian played a part in helping them attain their goals. ”

friendly demeanour, there isn't any other pursuit that has a better bunch of people. Some of the events that stand out for Brian were the Provincial and International Hunter Education Tournaments and Conservation/Hunter Education Instructors' Academies that he was involved with.

Brian believes that conservation education Instructors make a difference. They provide opportunities for students who otherwise may never get a chance to experience what the instructor has. There are many reasons why students may take a Conservation Education Course, and if we can provide some knowledge and skills that will improve their outdoor experience and build confidence so they can safely partake in their chosen activity, we have made a difference. Instructors also make a difference in a selfish way, in that to build and continue their passion they need to develop knowledgeable, respectful, ethical students who will share what they have learned.

Many students have expressed how appreciative they are for the courses and experiences offered. His students have gone on to careers related to conservation education, from professional guides, to brothers who own a remote fishing lodge, and many others who simply enjoy outdoor pursuits on a regular basis. And Brian played a part in helping them attain their goals.

His most memorable experiences were the practical ones. The classroom and programs provide much valuable knowledge, but he is a huge believer in the hands-on, give-it-a-try activities. There is nothing like the smile on a youngster's face when they break that first clay pigeon, put an arrow in the bullseye, or light a fire with primitive means.

Brian encourages students to enjoy the courses and take advantage of all they have to offer. Remember that, along with any licence or certification, comes a responsibility to follow what you have learned. You will become a representative of a very special group.

Of instructors, he says they will gain as much as their students from teaching conservation education. Provide as many practical experiences as you can. Know that your efforts make a difference. He says, "Take more pictures than I did." The number of people that conservation education touches staggers Brian. He believes that the on-line courses are high quality courses that reach many students who are, for a variety of reasons, unable to attend an instructor led course. He has utilized the on-line courses through his area's Virtual School to provide opportunity throughout the school division to smaller centres where Instructors were not

available. This proved to be quite successful and many students were certified. Wherever possible, Brian supplemented the program with field trips to provide practical experience.

Brian tells us to be supportive of conservation education. It is one of the best things going, with an army of volunteers doing incredible things and with benefits that are far reaching provincially, nationally, and even globally. They are good people doing good things.

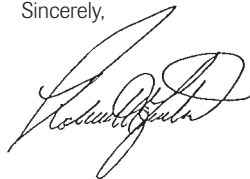
Congratulations again to the winners of the 14th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards! You have both earned your place in this distinguished group of educators, mentors, and trailblazers. By engaging your students through hands-on learning, and leading by the example of your own respect for nature's gifts, you have done your part to create a better world for your fellow Albertans. Thank you for keeping the bar high and for helping to advance the cause of conservation education: To Make Fish and Wildlife a Part of the Value System of Every Albertan.

The coming year will bring many challenges, old and new. Our membership has shown that tough times will not stop us — they don't even slow us down! A.H.E.I.A.'s programming is growing in 2016 to include a Boating Safety course, more online programs, additional smartphone apps to use in the field, and many others. As demands for certifications increase, student numbers continue on their upward climb and our volunteers are ready for them! If there is a course, workshop or lecture series you've been waiting for, let us know! As ever, we endeavour to provide the public with all of their outdoor educational needs.

Fundraising remains a constant and that will not change, though we are always on the lookout for new avenues of approach. There will be many raffles this year with some very excellent prizes to be won — keep an eye on them at www.AHEIA.com. Mark your calendars for June 2, and join us in Edmonton for the 3rd Annual Spring Fling banquet. We look forward to your support as we aspire to continue producing the quality programming and exciting events for which A.H.E.I.A. is known.

I look forward to working with all of you as together we face the many challenges and rewards that await us in 2016. On behalf of all of us in conservation education, thank you for the role you play in making wildlife and fish a significant part of peoples' value systems.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Gruszecki
President



Congratulations to the winners of the 14th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards!



14th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards & Banquet





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Firearms Education Report

“ ... the student will be looked after in a manner that reflects the values of the instructor. ”

By Glenn McKay



Glenn McKay
Firearms Education
Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A.

2015 saw a number of changes within the CFP. The most obvious change was Bill C-42, which saw the end of “challenges” as a way to obtain your PAL. Should an instructor receive a question about a challenge taken before the passing of the Bill, the results of the challenge will still be honoured by the Firearms Program.

As a result, instructors are doing the eight hour non-restricted course and the four hour restricted firearms course. Questions continue as

to “can I teach both courses in one day”, which would mean 12 hours of instruction followed by written and practical exams. Putting yourself in the shoes of the student, is that feasible and is it effective? Answer would be (for the most part) no. Students at the end of eight hours are tired and spent. The instructors are pretty much maxed out as well. Then add the practical examination, and for a class of 10, students should be there for a minimum of 10 hours. With more than one instructor, the time is cut down considerably, but it is still a long day.

Examples of the problems I see, as a result of tired instructors, are missed scores, signatures, the hours of the course and the number of students in the course. The really awkward part is that the student does not know that these problems will result in a lengthening of the time

it takes to obtain their PAL. They trust that the paperwork is correct and that the instructor has given them all that is required to get the licence. If students send in their applications within a few days, they may experience a long delay and many phone calls before the paperwork is corrected and processed.

I do believe that by following the course outline and teaching to the best of your ability, the student will be looked after in a manner that reflects the values of the instructor. Thank you for doing what you do, and if you have questions or concerns, drop me a line and or give me a call.



Contact Glenn at the Calgary office,
403-319-2282 (direct line) or
via email at bgm@aheia.com.

Congratulations! A.H.E.I.A. Raffle Winners



Hunter's Raffle

Drawn February 6, 2016. License #420714.

Won by
Roland Hirschi
of Blaimore, Alberta.



ATV Raffle

Drawn March 13, 2016. License #425745.

Won by
Scott MacLean
of Edson, Alberta.



Wine Raffle

Drawn December 17, 2015. License #413118.

Won by
Vanessa Neis
and
Marlene Pollock
of Calgary, Alberta.

*Photo: Vanessa is pictured on the left,
Marlene on the right.*

**Thank you to all
who purchased tickets.**

Edmonton Report



“ If you or any of your friends wish to become part of something bigger, please let me know. ”

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A.
Red Deer - North

Our 2016 Youth Hunter Education Camps will run July 3-8, 10-15, 17-22 and 24-29. Registration forms are available for download on our website. The 2016 Outdoor Youth Seminar is slated for August 19-21. To be placed on our Advance Notification list, please email your request to edmontoninfo@aheia.com.

Those on the list will receive registration information prior to it being released to the general public.

Our Range Officer Workshop runs April 23, followed by our Shotgun Coaching Workshop on April 24. Both events will be held at our Alford Lake facility and registration forms are available for download at www.aheia.com or contact me directly at len@aheia.com.

If you are interested in learning how to make your own bow, we have a deal for you. On May 14, our very own Ken Cook will be holding his very popular Bow Building Workshop. For more information or to register, contact Ken directly at ken@aheia.com.

A special thanks to all the volunteers who assisted with 2016 Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show. Your generosity and dedication once again helped make the event a big success.

Please mark June 2, 2016 on your calendars. We will be holding our 3rd annual Spring Fling Banquet in Edmonton on that day. For more information please contact me directly at len@aheia.com. We are already working diligently to make the 2016 banquet another great event. Tickets are now available.

We continue to look for volunteer assistance for all of our courses, camps, events, etc. If you or any of your friends wish to become part of something bigger, please let me know. Giving back has great personal rewards. The more help we get, the better.

There are still a number of the Canadian Firearms Program instructors out there who need to teach courses to comply with their commitment with the CFO. If you are having difficulty teaching the required number of courses per year, we can help. Contact the Edmonton or Calgary office and we will get you to assist with teaching one of our in-house courses. You may also like to attend one of our classes as a refresher. Either way we could use the help and it is a positive situation for everyone.

Until next time.

*Take care and
Enjoy the Great Outdoors.*



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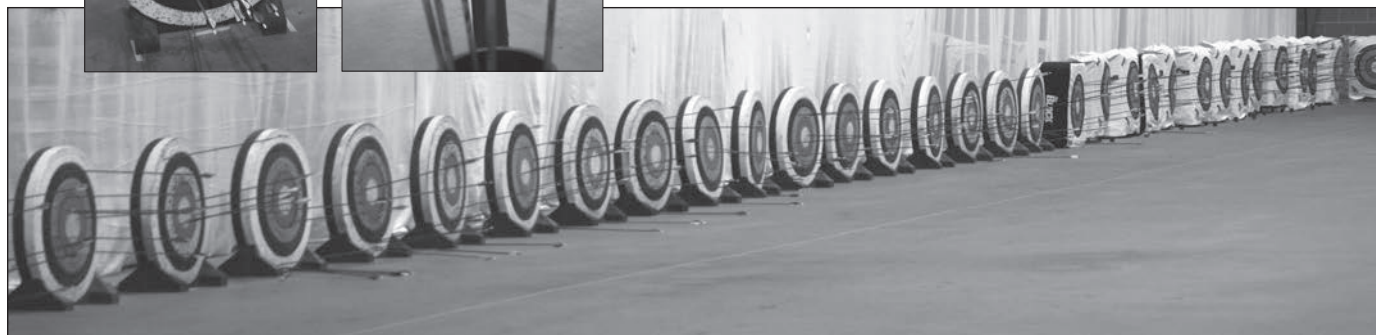
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A.H.E.I.A.'s Mission is to Make Wildlife and Fish Part of the Value System of Every Albertan

Photo courtesy of Don Kesler Nature Photography.

A.H.E.I.A.'s 2016 National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Provincial Championships



2016 NASP Provincial Results

High School Teams

First.....	H.A. Kostash (AB).....	3284
Second.....	Cardston High (AB).....	3230
Third.....	William E. Hay (AB).....	3170

Middle School Teams

First.....	Mountain View (AB).....	3132
Second.....	H.A. Kostash (AB).....	3094
Third.....	Melfort Composite Jr. (SK).....	2995

Elementary School Teams

First.....	Maude Burke (SK).....	2792
Second.....	H.A. Kostash (AB).....	2478
Third.....	St. Anthony (AB).....	2449

Top Archers High School Female

First.....	Emmalee Connolly (H.A. Kostash, AB).....	294
Second.....	Tori Pritchard (H.A. Kostash, AB).....	285
Third.....	Daniella Gericke (Prairie Valley School Div., SK).....	283

Top Archers Middle School Female

First.....	Hailey Ashton (H.A. Kostash, AB).....	286
Second.....	Josie Beuker (Melfort Composite Jr., SK).....	279
Third.....	Abby Lees (Yorkdale Central, SK).....	278

Top Archers Elementary School Female

First.....	Heather Ziprick (H.A. Kostash, AB).....	249
Second.....	Hallee Pilling (Mountain View, AB).....	248
Third.....	Elizabeth Janzen (Maude Burke, SK).....	247

Top Archers High School Male

First.....	Zachary Tychowsky (H.A. Kostash, AB).....	289
Second.....	Colby Barclay (William E. Hay, AB).....	285
Third.....	Nicholas Roddick-Ament (Edwin Parr Comp., AB).....	283

Top Archers Middle School Male

First.....	Brad Heskin (Yorkton Regional High, SK).....	283
Second.....	Nicolas Zaft (Edwin Parr Composite, AB).....	283
Third.....	Jordan Ekins (H.A. Kostash, AB).....	277

Top Archers Elementary School Male

First.....	James Leishman (Mountain View, AB).....	268
Second.....	Hayden Gendall (Maude Burke, SK).....	266
Third.....	Ben Pittman (Warner, AB).....	259



Changing Lives One Arrow at a Time

23rd ANNUAL

Outdoor Women's Program

AUGUST 3-7, 2016



Evening & Special Events!

Alford Lake Olympics
Bow Tuning and Maintenance
Camp Fire Evening!
Cleanin' My Gun
Feature LIVE Auction
on Saturday Night
Fly Tying
Game Calling 101
Knife and Axe Sharpening
Learn How to Photograph
Your Harvest
Nature Power Walk
Outdoor Jeopardy -
Learning About Wildlife and
Wild Places in the Most
Entertaining Way Possible
Rope Making

POTENTIAL SESSIONS AVAILABLE:

- Advanced Hunting - Big Game Animals
- Advanced Hunting - Upland Game Birds and Waterfowl
- Building Your Own Survival Bracelet and Learning How to Use it
- Canoeing - Basic and Advanced
- Crossbows - Getting Started
- Field Techniques - Preparing Your Animal for the Taxidermist
- Firearms Basics - Guns, Guns, Guns
- Get Out Alive! - Basic Outdoor Survival
- K-9s at Work
(Each day will feature a different type of working dog:
K-9 Police Dogs, Search and Rescue, Retriever and
Pointer Hunting Dogs)
- Predator Awareness - Preventing Conflicts with Carnivores
- Where Am I? Where Should I Be?
- Archery
- Chainsaw Basics
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Walking the Line

"The goal in furbearer management is to maintain furbearer populations in sufficient abundance to retain the biodiversity and sustain harvests over the long term."

By Glen Pickering



Glen Pickering
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A. Red Deer - South

One of the first industries to be established in Canada was the fur trade. Aboriginal people traditionally traded furs many years before the Europeans arrived, and a trade industry was established in the 1700s when competing companies like the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Com-

pany set up trading posts across Canada.

The trapping of furbearing animals is licenced and regulated by provincial and territorial governments whose wildlife biologists are responsible for establishing regional management plans to ensure healthy furbearer populations. Licenced trapping occurs on both private and public land, but you must hold a Registered Fur Management Licence to trap in one of the Fur Management Areas allocated on public lands.

In January, I had the opportunity to go along with some trappers who have a registered trap line in the southwestern part of the province. We traveled 95 km during the day, checking and setting traps for pine marten and lynx. Traveling by snowmobile over rough trails for eight hours makes one realize what early trappers went through in order to harvest furs during the long cold winters, walking their trap lines with hand made snowshoes. Snowmobiles and sleds, used to carry bait and supplies, make it easier to travel long distances and make it apparent the good physical condition these early trappers

had to be in. When you step off the packed trail into two feet of snow to check and set 30 plus traps during the day, it becomes evident the work involved. All harvested furs then have to be skinned, fleshed, cleaned, stretched and dried to bring the best price on the market.



"When you step off the packed trail into two feet of snow to check and set 30 plus traps during the day, it becomes evident the work involved."

Furs which are harvested are generally sold by auction at the North American Fur Auction (NAFA) located in Toronto. In Alberta, there are various shipping/receiving stations that will ship your legally harvested furs to the auction. Location and last shipping dates can be found on the NAFA website. Check the hunting regulations under the "Other Species" heading to learn about which furbearing animals can be hunted in Alberta. Some furbearing species, such as pine marten and lynx, can only be harvested with a trapping licence.

Predator control, such as reducing the coyote population in the prairie regions where antelope populations have struggled from severe winters, is an effective way for hunters and trappers to help increase the survival of the new born kids. Upland game birds can also be severely affected by a high population of fox or coyote. Badgers, considered pests by most farmers and ranchers, can also bring a good dollar on the fur market. Wolf populations are on the rise in many WMUs and have taken their toll on big game populations. The goal in furbearer management is to maintain furbearer populations in sufficient abundance to retain the biodiversity and sustain harvests over the long term. Thus, hunters and trappers will continue to play an important and traditional role in the conservation of all species.



Lynx cubby.

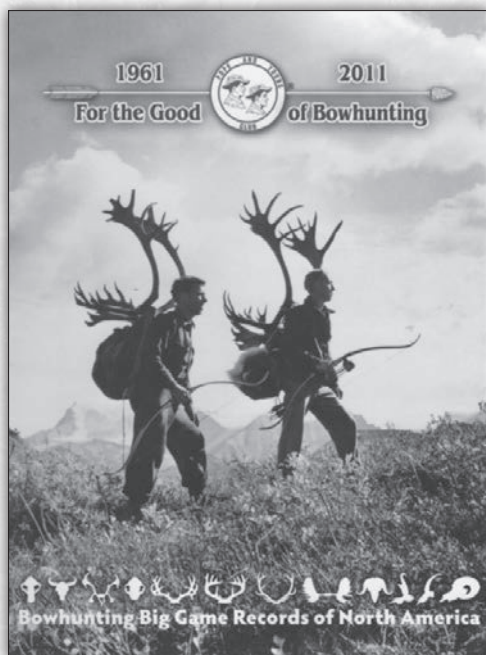


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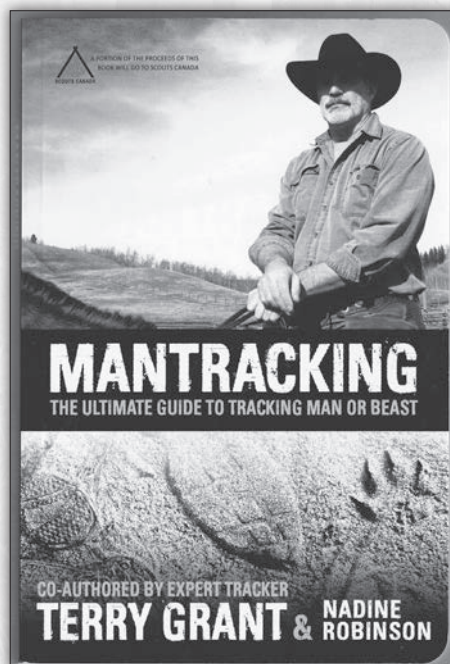
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Thank You!

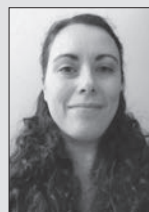


Staff Announcements



Diane Kendall

A.H.E.I.A. is pleased to announce that Diane Kendall has joined the Calgary team as an Administrative Assistant. Diane brings a broad skill set with many years of experience in a variety of different administrative capacities. She will be based out of the Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence, and will be assisting at the Calgary Firearms Centre as well. Diane can be reached by phone at the Calgary office, 403-319-2283, or by email at diane@ahcia.com.



Sarah Long

A.H.E.I.A. is also pleased to announce that Sarah Long has joined the Edmonton team as an Assistant Conservation Education Program Coordinator. Sarah is returning to the workforce following maternity leave and was actually introduced to this amazing opportunity by her Mom, who found the job posting on the A.H.E.I.A. website. Sarah graduated with honours from Lakeland College, earning a Diploma in Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation.

She loves learning new skills and is currently dabbling in leather and bead working. She and her family enjoy spending time with loved ones, fishing, camping, hunting and barbequing. Sarah, her husband and son are currently living in Stony Plain. She can be reached through the Edmonton office, 780-466-6682, or by email at sarah@ahcia.com.

Please join me in welcoming Diane and Sarah to A.H.E.I.A.

Robert A. Gruszecki - President

The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

would like to thank

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The *Mentored Hunt Program Materials*
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Since 1985, Wildlife Habitat Canada, a national, non-profit, charitable conservation organization, has invested over \$50 million to support hundreds of conservation projects on private and public lands across Canada, through its granting program. Wildlife Habitat Canada works through partnerships with communities, landowners, governments, non-government organizations, and industry to conserve, enhance, and restore wildlife habitat. To learn more about the projects that Wildlife Habitat Canada has funded or to see our annual report, please visit www.whc.org.

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Spring Black Bear Hunting

"According to Alberta Environment and Parks, the Alberta black bear population is approximately 40,000 and going strong."

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A.
Red Deer - North

The black bear (*Ursus Americanus*) is historically well distributed in Alberta in appropriate habitats. Black bears can be located in approximately 75% of the province in a range of approximately 190,000 square miles. Their habitat covers most of Alberta's forested land areas and they can regularly be located in

foothill and mountainous areas, as well as in open forests throughout their range. Modern clear-cut practices and the opening-up of newly forested areas have helped to increase suitable black bear habitat, and populations have seen an increase in recent years.

According to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), the Alberta black bear population is approximately 40,000 and going strong. Approximately six per cent are harvested annually by hunters, with most being taken during the spring hunt. We can consider our current population to be very strong and on the rise.

With all of this in our favour, this is a perfect time to consider heading out on a bear hunting adventure. There are a number of considerations you must contemplate prior to heading out on your journey.

Well, now that we know some of the facts, you would think it would be an easy process to harvest a black bear. It is not that simple, but with proper preparation and becoming more familiar with the ins and outs, you can become successful at harvesting a black bear.

Location

Like any type of hunting, it is critical that you are properly prepared and have done your homework, both in the field and at home.

You basically have two options for the style of hunting in which you take part: namely spot and stalk, or utilizing some type of luring station such as baiting. By far the most successful method is baiting. When using this style of hunting, please make certain that you consult the Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations. Not all areas of the province allow baited hunting for black bears. Make sure that the WMU in which you wish to bait is legal.

There are a number of ways in which you can maximize the opportunity to see more bears and be more successful at harvesting the bear you really want. Using the process of elimination, you can locate WMUs that traditionally have better bear populations.

One tool that I have used frequently is to consult the Alberta Wildlife record book (Alberta Fish and Game Association), Pope and Young, Safari Club, and Boone and Crockett record books. I have been able to locate areas that were producing record book bears and potentially check out those areas.

Another good tip is to contact AEP biologists and Fish and Wildlife offices for input. Often they are a great source as to what is happening in the WMUs in their respective areas. This is a link to Fish and Wildlife offices at <http://www.alberta-regulations.ca/huntingregs/inquiries.html>.

Sometimes county offices may also be helpful when there are bear issues in their territory. You can also start networking with friends and other hunters as to what areas they are seeing bears.

Once you have decided on which area(s) you wish to investigate, there are a few things you should keep in mind when choosing your bait site. I would recommend that you get some topographic maps, apps for your phone or use Google Maps. Not all areas will have concentrations of bear activity. When the bears start to come out of hibernation, they need easy food and water. Typically, the first to appear are sows and sows with cubs, followed by boars. My experience indicates that the larger boars come out even later.

Common spring fare consists of greening up vegetation, carcasses from winter killed animals, berries that survived the winter, clover, etc. As spring progresses, poplar buds, dandelions, ants and other insects, fish, etc. come into play. One constant, however, is their need for water. You can also locate all sorts of grasses and other plants growing near water. Many animals also perish near creeks and other water courses, providing tasty snacks for bears.

Since creeks, ponds and rivers typically thaw faster in the spring, I tend to concentrate my efforts there. I also like the noise the water makes, helping to mask many sounds. Once you prioritize your areas, you will be ready to scout for tracks, fresh scat and tree markings (claw marking).

Don't overlook farmland bordering wooded areas. Bears cannot resist oat fields and on occasion you can see their trails winding in and out of these fields like spokes on a rim. Contacting local farmers who have oat fields is also a good practice. Typically they are more than happy to get these destructive bears out of their fields.

Honey producers frequently have bear issues, so try contacting them as well. A Google search will help with this.

Once you find the sign you're looking for, you can begin the process of setting up your stand/hide and bait site.

The Bait Site

The distance one should place their stand or blind from the bait location is determined by a number of factors. For rifle hunters, the distance can be greater than for bow hunters. Typically, I prefer to set my stand 20-30 yards from the bait barrel. By doing this, those who prefer using archery equipment have reasonable distances, while rifle hunters typically have an easy time, provided they turn down their scopes to the lowest magnification.

Choose a site that can be easily approached away from the barrel. By doing this, you can approach the stand without disturbing the bait barrel. Since the majority of bear hunting takes





place in the afternoon/evening time, place your stands so that your back is towards the setting sun. It is difficult to identify the bears and make an accurate shot when the sun is blazing into your eyes. Build or place your stands 12-15 feet off the ground for optimum results. Make sure you cut shooting lanes.

The Bait

There are many different opinions on how to actually set up your luring station. Over the years, I have harvested many bears, as have my former clients and friends.

I make every effort to keep human smells away from the bait barrel and surrounding area. I like to utilize some type of scent to advertise that food is present. One attractant I use all the time is something we affectionately call 'the funk'. This concoction is made months prior to the actual spring bear hunting season. Fill five gallon pails about $\frac{2}{3}$ full of fish guts, add water to the $\frac{3}{4}$ full mark, place a tight fitting lid on it and let it percolate until it gets used in the spring. Your neighbours may question your sanity, but it is well worth it. Check with your local fish markets, as they will often be happy to give you the fish guts. Just tell them you are using it as a fertilizer for your garden or rose bushes. To use the funk carefully, pour about two cups of the liquid into a sturdy plastic bag (approximately 10"x16") and securely tie off the top. Pound a 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " nail about six feet up from the ground on the bait barrel tree. Hang the bag on the nail. Find a stick about $\frac{3}{8}$ " in diameter and 12" in length and sharpen one end. Next, push the sharpened end through the bag a few times until the liquid starts to run down the tree. Replenish about every 3-4 times that you visit the site.

Anise oil is another product that seems to pique the bears' interest. The oil can be purchased at many Asian supermarkets, as well as trapper supply houses. To use, take a two litre plastic pop bottle and cut about six slits about three inches long around the circumference of the base. Next, cut up a sponge into approximately one inch pieces and shove through the top of the bottle opening. Next, pour about 10 tablespoons of oil into the bottle. The oil will be absorbed by the sponges for easier scent distribution. Next, tie about 50 yards of paracord or similar rope securely to the top of the bottle. Now fling the bot-

tle high into the tree the bait barrel is attached to. Adding rocks to the jug can make the task easier. Pull on the rope to move the bottle higher into the tree for better scent distribution and then tie off to the tree. Replenish the oil as required.

Beaver carcasses are a fabulous way to put scent in the air to attract bears. Carcasses can be purchased from your local trappers and can help to up the ante. Hang the carcass about five feet off the ground and attach to the bait barrel tree by tightly wrapping it to the tree with wire. I use the bottom wire from chain link fences, as it is inexpensive, flexible and very durable. Use multiple wraps to secure the carcass. You want the bear to work at getting the treat, not just grab it and run. The longer the bear stays at the site, the better chance to judge and harvest the animal.

I prefer to utilize a 45 gallon drum with a closeable bolted lid to hold the bait. The barrel is secured to the tree with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " polyethylene rope. An eyebolt installed in the centre of the lid and secured with double washers (top and bottom) and double nuts does the job. The bears can access the bait through holes drilled in the side of the drum. Lay the barrel on its side, then measure about 12" down from the top and bottom lip of the barrel. Drill a one inch hole at both locations. Rotate the drum 180 degrees and repeat the process. If the holes are too small, the bears have difficulty getting the bait out and, if too large, you will need to continually fill the barrel and waste lots of the bait.

I prefer to use whole oats for my primary bait. Oats can be purchased at your local feed store in 20 kg bags, or contact local farmers who may sell to you in bulk. Mix four bags of oats, four kg granulated white sugar, eight ounces of liquid smoke and one gallon of used cooking oil. The used cooking oil can be acquired by making



Bait Barrels

friends with your local restaurants. Mixing right in the drum on site, a bag at a time, using a hand ice auger, works well. Once the bait is mixed, secure the lid and lay the drum on its side with the holes lined up parallel to the ground (helps keep the bait dry). Place logs across the drum to help determine if the bait has been hit or not, thus helping to keep your scent away from the bait. If the logs are off, the bears have arrived. Check your baits regularly and replenish as required. Active sites with multiple bears feeding can empty a barrel in approximately five days. Keep barrels full to keep them coming back.

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Firearms Ballistics:

A Look at Internal Ballistics

By Allan Orr



Allan Orr
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A. Red Deer - South

When we think of ballistics, we tend to think of characteristics associated with the flight path of a bullet. While the trajectory is a major part of what we call “external” ballistics, in fact the field of ballistics covers much more than just that.

In this three part series, we will look at firearms ballistics

from three separate and distinct angles:

1. Internal Ballistics – What happens to the bullet and cartridge inside the firearm.
2. External Ballistics – What happens during the flight of the bullet.
3. Terminal Ballistics – What happens with the bullet as it enters the body cavity.

In this article, we will look at Internal Ballistics.

Simply by loading a cartridge into the chamber of a firearm, a shooter has set the stage for a series of mechanical actions and chemical reactions that will result in a series of physical actions and reactions that Newton himself would have been proud of!

Upon the pull of the trigger, the firing pin springs forward striking the primer located either on the edge or in the middle of the cartridge. In either case, the primer powder is “impact-sensitive”, meaning that it will detonate when struck with sufficient force.

By the way — did you ever wonder how primer powder ends up in the rim of a rimfire cartridge? Yeah, me too. Here’s what happens:

Primer powder in a wet state is stable. Manufacturers of the rimfire cartridges build these cartridges so that there is room for powder in the lip of the cartridge between the lower and upper parts of the base. A blob of wet primer powder (they are probably more precise than just using “a blob”) is placed in the centre of the empty cartridge and is “spun” into place with a centrifuge. Once in place, the powder is allowed to dry. Once dry, the powder is ready to fire.

So after the primer powder is detonated by being impacted either in the rim or in the primer of the firearm, it explodes with sufficient force to ignite the main powder charge in the cartridge. The modern smokeless powder in the cartridge does not explode; it burns. This comes as a surprise to many new (and some old) shooters. Black powder, used in primitive weapons, reacts

explosively, which is more likely what most people envision all gun powder doing. This produces a somewhat different chemical and physical reaction, but with a similar result to the modern powder burn. As the powder burns, it produces hot gasses which increase the chamber pressure. The pressure pushes on the base of the projectile and causes the projectile to accelerate in the direction with the least resistance. The more chamber pressure, the more push!

Chamber pressure is dictated by several factors. The main factors are the burn rate of the powder, the temperature of the gasses and the size (volume) of the chamber. The burn rate can be controlled by not only the chemical makeup of the powder, but also by its shape and size. Powder in a solid shape is called “digressive-burning” because as the individual pieces of powder burn, they decrease in surface area, decreasing the rate of burn over time. A flattened piece or a flake shape is called “neutral-burning” because the surface area, and therefore the burn rate, neither increases nor decreases as it is consumed. A tube shaped grain of powder is called “progressive-burning” because as it burns, the surface area actually increases along with the burn rate.

Picture the inside of a hollow log burning. As it is consumed, the hole in the middle of the log gets bigger, increasing the surface area and the amount of heat produced. This is exactly the same

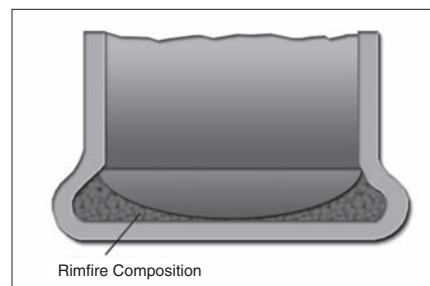
in tube shaped smokeless powder. If you think of a rifle bullet being fired down a long rifle barrel, it becomes clear that a progressive burning powder would be most effective to give that bullet an effective push all the way down its length without increasing the initial chamber pressure to a dangerous point. Typically, fast burning powder is used in light projectile or low velocity pistols or shotguns, medium burning powder is used for magnum pistols and light rifle rounds and slow burners are used with larger, heavier rifle rounds.

The temperature of the gasses varies with the ability of the chamber to absorb heat, and the volume of the chamber effectively increases as the bullet travels down the barrel. As heat is lost in the expanding chamber, so is the effectiveness of the powder. A thicker chamber and barrel will hold the heat better than a thin one, producing a better burn down the length of the barrel. As well, a cartridge that is perfectly matched to a firearm will burn all of its powder at the precise instant that the bullet leaves the muzzle. There will be no unburned powder exiting the barrel and there will be no space between where the burning powder stopped pushing the bullet and the exit of the bullet from the barrel. It can be quite complicated!

These are the forces that provide inertia to the projectile inside the firearm. But what about forces that provide resistance? In this case, the most obvious and the most applicable force is friction, or more specifically, kinetic friction. This occurs when one dry surface is in contact with, and moves relative to, another. Kinetic friction produces thermal energy (heat) which can be felt by grabbing the barrel of your firearm after a shot or two.

Firing a projectile or several down a barrel will cause the dry surface of the bullet to contact the dry surface of the barrel. Because the bullet is purposefully made of metal softer than the barrel, it will deform and reform to the shape dictated by the shape of the internal barrel. The action of deforming and reforming requires energy which can only come from the burning gas produced by the powder. Now, knowing that, one might think that firearms manufacturers would want to minimize the amount of deform/reform to keep their firearms producing fast projectiles. True, but they also need to keep in mind the need to provide rifling in the rifle barrels and chokes in a shotgun barrel. Each of these requires a significant loss of energy, but each is critical for that firearm’s accuracy. Finding a firearm that achieves this balance, along with a cartridge that provides a perfect burn, is only one of several factors that a shooter should consider when choosing a firearm.

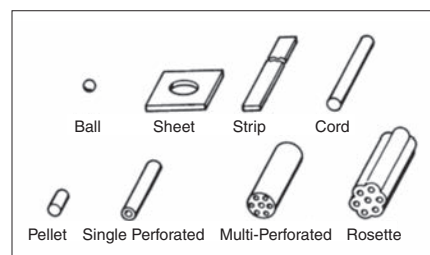
Next issue we’ll look at external ballistics.



Rimfire Composition

Rimfire primer powder.

Illustration courtesy Reeds Target Shooting Club
www.reedstargetshootingclub.co.uk



Various shapes of powder pellets.

Illustration courtesy US Army Technical Manual

Part 2 of a 4 Part Series

How to Take Your Best Shot: Natural Body Alignment

"Natural body alignment is much simpler and more important than most shooters (and many instructors) realize."

By Linda K. Miller
MilCun Training Center



Linda K. Miller
MilCun Training Center

Everybody has heard of marksmanship principles, few have heard what they really mean. Here are the ones we use when we teach our rifle marksmanship courses.

The slide we show at the beginning of the marksmanship lecture says it all:

Marksmanship Principles

Position and holding pattern

Alignment - natural body alignment

Sight picture and breath control

❖Mental program

Trigger release & follow through

But the devil is in the details and we take our time going through the marksmanship principles, first in the classroom and then out on the range.

Last issue, we talked about "Position and Holding Pattern". Now, we move on to the second marksmanship principle.

PAS*T:

"A" is for Natural Body Alignment

Natural body alignment is much simpler and more important than most shooters (and many instructors) realize. The way we teach it is very simple. In the classroom, we demonstrate the importance of a neutral hold on the rifle by showing the students what happens during recoil. We use a jug of water as our teaching aid and have a student apply a lateral force. The student applies maximum pressure to the side of the jug without moving it and this represents holding the rifle on

target with lateral force through the shoulder, the cheek, the hand or the bipod. When we introduce "recoil" with a hard slap to the table the jug is resting on, the lateral force acts and the jug moves in the direction of the force, just as the rifle would.

On the range, we have the shooter place his rifle on the firing line, pointed directly at his target. Then, without disturbing anything, we have him lie down behind the butt in line with the rifle. We then instruct him to "wrap" himself around the butt and keep any pressure on the gunstock vertical. Once the shooter sees the recoil jump the way it is supposed to — straight back without a lateral jump — he has a full understanding of what he's trying to accomplish. And once he sees the tiny little group this produces, he's a convert!

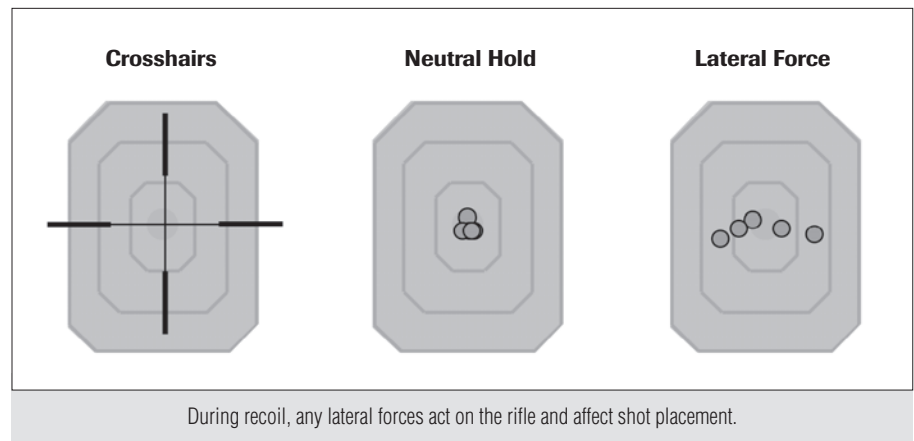
It's fairly simple to keep lateral forces to an absolute minimum when you're using a bipod and a rear bag to support the rifle. All you have to do is sneak up behind the sight without disturbing anything. It gets a little more difficult when you're in a sitting, kneeling or standing position because you have to support everything and keep it on target. Every place you touch the rifle you need to be "force-neutral"; that is, letting the

rifle rest in a neutral way on the position you assemble under it. The test for natural alignment is this: address the target, close your eyes, mount the rifle, and relax; then open your eyes and see where the crosshairs have settled — this is the un-coiled neutral position. To correct, move your entire position from the ground up to bring this neutral position on target.

When you're hunting, you may not have the luxury of knowing exactly where your target might appear. If you're scouting or stalking along a trail, you need to be ready to stop and plant your feet in a way that lets your rifle point naturally at the target. If you're sitting in a blind or stand, you need to practice your natural alignment to any of the spots where game could appear.

Next issue, we continue with the marksmanship principles, focusing on Sight Picture and Breath Control.

Linda K. Miller and Keith A. Cunningham are the authors of *The Wind Book for Rifle Shooters* and *The Secrets of Mental Marksmanship*. Both books are both available at www.amazon.ca and <http://theshootingedge.com>.



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Great Meals

from the

Harvest

with Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
A.H.E.I.A. Red Deer - North

Scandinavian Elk Meatballs in Cream Sauce

1 1/2 pounds ground elk	1/2 pound ground pork
2 teaspoons salt	1/2 teaspoon pepper
2 large eggs - beaten	1/3 cup finely minced onions
1/2 cup whipping cream	2 cups bread crumbs
1/2 clove garlic - minced	1/2 cup melted butter
Dash of hot sauce	

In a large mixing bowl combine the meat, salt, pepper, onion, eggs, whipping cream and hot sauce. Mix until well incorporated.

Shape into 1" balls and set aside. Roll meatballs in the breadcrumbs and arrange in a single layer on shallow baking pans. Drizzle melted butter

over the meatballs and bake at 375°F for about 35 minutes, turning often until browned.

Prepare the cream sauce.

Cream Dill Sauce

1/2 cup butter	1/4 cup flour	1/4 teaspoon paprika
2 cups chicken stock	2 cups sour cream	Salt and pepper to taste
4 teaspoons fresh dill - minced	1/2 teaspoon allspice	Juice from 1/2 a lemon

Melt butter in a large saucepan over low heat. Whisk in flour until smooth, then gradually whisk in the chicken stock. Continue until thickened, then add the sour cream, dill and spices.

Place meatballs on a serving platter and cover with the creamy dill sauce. Serve as an appetizer or with egg noodles or rice, along with the veggie of your choice.

Bear Chops

4 bear chops (3/4"-1" thick)	1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon salt	1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/2 teaspoon onion powder	1/3 cup finely minced onions
1 can sliced mushrooms with liquid	Flour for dredging
Canola oil for browning	1 can cream of mushroom soup
Dash of hot sauce	Worcestershire sauce

Trim fat from chops and then dredge in flour combined with all the dry spices. Brown in a fry pan and then place in an oven-proof pan or roaster. Sprinkle diced onions and hot sauce over the chops. Spread the mushrooms and their liquid over the chops and top with the cream of mushroom soup. Spread evenly and sprinkle with a bit of Worcestershire sauce.

Bake covered at 350°F for 1 1/2 hours. Remove the lid for the final 20 minutes.

Serve with mashed potatoes, your favourite vegetable, some rustic bread and a bold red wine. Enjoy!



Conservation Education Points of Contact

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